Follow up Letter



Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

To members of Meeting for Sufferings

10 July 2018

Meeting for Sufferings 7 July 2018

Dear Friends,

It was good to meet with you last Saturday and I think we all worked hard although it was such a hot day. The minutes are attached for your use and they will also available on <u>www.quaker.org.uk</u>. I hope you will be able to report back to your area meeting before too long, and to share with Friends there both how and why we meet together in Meeting for Sufferings, and also some of the key pieces of business that we agreed.

Members of your Area Meeting may be interested in our response to Devon AM regarding the follow-up of the treatment of children in Israel-Palestine (minute 6), or our response about the change in funding for Circles UK, brought by Central England AM (minute 7). We engaged deeply with the issues arising from Mid-Wales AM's concern about truth and integrity in our remembrance of the past – in our minute 8, we hope that AMs will consider this matter further. This will be pertinent prior to civic events planned for the autumn in regard to the hundredth anniversary of the 1918 armistice.

Minute 13 is the minute that refers to the setting up of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee, as requested by Yearly Meeting 2018. We also heard how important it is that we uphold our Central Nominations Committee as they set about their task, seeking divine guidance. It is also not too late to suggest specific Friends whose names you feel would be right to be considered for this role and the link for suggested names is <u>here</u>.

Minute 17 records our agreement that area meeting trustees be encouraged to report on sustainability actions in their annual report – you may like to explain directly to your area meeting trustees about the guidelines prepared by Quaker Stewardship Committee and the offer of help and support from members of BYM Sustainability Group.

I think we were all struck by the phrase from the BYM trustees' minutes about a simpler church - in fact our opening worship contained spoken ministry about this: a simpler church supported by a simpler charity that enables Quakerism to be reinvigorated in twenty-first century Britain.

As always, if you have any feedback about the meeting which you wish to share with the clerks, or questions about the meeting, please email to <u>sufferings@quaker.org.uk</u>

I have found my thoughts leading me to 2 Corinthians 3 v 5 and 6:

'Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life'.

And so Friends, I wish you a restful and renewing summertime and look forward to our meeting again at the beginning of October.

Peace be with you,

Anne Mathorne

Anne Ullathorne Clerk, Meeting for Sufferings

The following papers are included in this mailing:

- Minutes of the Meeting held 7 July 2018
- Meeting for Sufferings: functions list (July 2018)

Other useful links:

- Online form for Friends to submit ideas for the next Book of Discipline
- Information about the <u>Young People's Participation Day</u> which will happen with and alongside Meeting for Sufferings in October 2018
- <u>Quakers Call for Leaders with Integrity</u> Britain Yearly Meeting's media release at the time of the president of the United States' visit to Britain.

Meeting for Sufferings: are we addressing our functions?

Quaker faith & *practice* section 7.02 sets out 19 functions of Meeting for Sufferings (a-s). Arrangements Group hopes it will be helpful to monitor how the agenda items enable us to address these functions. Business at this meeting related to 7 of the functions. (We also hope that function i) to foster communication throughout the yearly meeting is addressed by representatives before and after every meeting.)

c) To receive regular interim reports from BYM trustees

MfS/18/07/16 BYM Trustees

g) To deliberate on how best to support the spiritual life of the yearly meeting and to further the development of its visionary and prophetic role

- MfS/18/07/12 Yearly Meeting 2018 minutes and reflections
- MfS/18/07/13 Book of Discipline Revision
- MfS/18/07/14 Religious Understandings
- MfS/18/07/15 Quaker Stewardship Committee Review Group
- MfS/18/07/17 Sustainability: reporting on actions

h) To keep under review and to test as appropriate the existing and new concerns to it by AMs and others

- MfS/18/07/05 Quaker Life Central Committee Strategy for 2018-22
- MfS/18/07/06 Israel-Palestine
- MfS/18/07/07 Circles of Support and Accountability
- MfS/18/07/08 Quakers in First World War
- i) To foster communication throughout the Yearly Meeting
- MfS/18/07/05 Quaker Life Central Committee Strategy for 2018-22
- MfS/18/07/12 Yearly Meeting 2018 minutes and reflections
- MfS/18/07/15 Quaker Stewardship Committee Review Group
- MfS/18/07/18 Quaker Recognised Bodies

j) To receive minutes from area meetings

- MfS/18/07/05 Quaker Life Central Committee Strategy for 2018-22
- MfS/18/07/06 Israel-Palestine
- MfS/18/07/07 Circles of Support & Accountability
- MfS/18/07/08 Quakers in First World War
- k) To make appropriate entries in the prison and court register
- MfS/18/07/11 Court & Prison Register

r) To authorise action and minute as required under other sections of Quaker Faith and Practice

- MfS/18/07/10 Nominations and Appointments
- MfS/18/07/13 Book of Discipline Revision
- MfS/18/07/15 Quaker Stewardship Committee Review Group
- MfS/18/07/17 Sustainability: reporting on actions
- MfS/18/07/18 Quaker Recognised Bodies

s) To set up an arrangements group and support and working groups to assist its own work as it sees fit

• MfS/18/07/10a MfS Support Group



Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

At a meeting of Meeting for Sufferings

Held at Friends House, London on Saturday 7 July 2018

MfS/18/07/01 Opening Worship

During opening worship we have heard Quaker faith & practice 2.88 read.

MfS/18/07/02 Membership

Further to minute 17 of Yearly Meeting 2018, we record here the names of Friends currently appointed as members of Meeting for Sufferings. We confirm these appointments of Friends to serve until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2021:

	Representative	Alternate
Banbury & Evesham AM	Susie Tombs	Lynne Richardson
Bournemouth Coastal AM	Anthony Woolhouse	Kate Mellor
Brighouse West Yorkshire AM	Rosemary Daley	Ann Banks
Bristol AM	Heather Lister	Helen Chambers
Cambridgeshire AM	Sue Brock-Hollinshead	Hannah Morrow
Central England AM	Cathy Khurana	Claire Bowman
Central Nominations Committee	Gill Reid (CNC clerk)	David Beale
Central Yorkshire AM	Ruth McTighe	Jane Pinder
Chilterns AM	Jane Edmonds	Anthony Philpott
Cornwall AM	Julie Taylor-Browne	Glynis Davies
Craven & Keighley AM	Richard Vesey	Keith Reeves
Cumberland AM	Robert Pritchard	David Day
Devon AM	Jacqui Poole	Sally Hartog
Dorset & South Wiltshire AM	Jane Fowles	Rachel Celia
East Cheshire AM	Jacqui Moore	Eleni Burgess
East Kent AM	Danny Chesterman	Caroline Howden
East Scotland AM	Alyson Buchan	Robert Thompson
Gloucestershire AM	Colin Brown	Pat Beard
Hampshire & Islands AM	sarah coote	Jane Wilde
Hardshaw & Mann AM	Maureen Jackson	Diana Jeater
Hertford & Hitchin AM	Kathleen Hindle	Katey Earle
Ipswich & Diss AM	Elaine Green	Avril Dawson
Kendal & Sedbergh AM	Chris Bullard	Pam Coren
Kingston & Wandsworth AM	Keith Walton	Kim Boyd
Lancashire Central & North AM	Liz Eddington	Elizabeth Gruar
Leeds AM	Martin Ford	Richard Levitt

Minutes

	Representative	Alternate
Leicester AM	Fiona Cownie	Chris Myers
Lincolnshire AM	Mark Lilley	David Howard
London West AM	Simon Risley	Sandra Horsfall
Luton & Leighton AM	Jayne Meadows	Neil Morgan
Manchester & Warrington AM	Marion McNaughton	Steven Johnson
Mid-Essex AM	Deirdre Haslam	Brian Wardrop
Mid-Somerset AM	Gill Greenfield	Andy Hall
Mid-Thames AM	Doreen Osborne	Jean Scott-Barr
Mid-Wales AM	David Jones	Carol Satterthwaite
North East Thames AM	Anne Smith	Jane Natai
North Scotland AM	Bridgid Hess	
North Somerset AM	Shella Parry	Shena Deuchars
North Wales AM	Helen Still	
North West London AM	Ruth Hawthorn	Emily Milner
Norfolk & Waveney AM	Jenny Routledge	Silas Price
Northamptonshire AM	Karen Draycott	Sally Lewis
Northumbria AM	Barbara Bone	Steve Pullan
Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire AM	Maggie Lightowler-Cook	Judith Green
Oxford & Swindon AM	Bridget Walker	Tina Leonard
Pendle Hill AM	Gordon Benson	Philippa Swancott
Pickering & Hull AM	Sam McNair	Christine Fellowes
Sheffield & Balby AM	Rosemary Roberts	Craig Barnett
South East London AM	Rowena Loverance	Jo-Anne Fraser
South London AM	Bob Rogers	Eva Kalmus
South East Scotland AM	Henry Thompson	Kate Arnot
South Wales AM	Julia Lim	Carole Rakodi
Southern East Anglia AM	Robert Parkes	
Southern Marches AM	Julian Rutherford	Maggie Taylor-Sanders
Staffordshire AM	Win Sutton	Rosemary Barnett
Surrey & Hampshire Border AM	Mary Prior	Ivan Hutnik
Sussex East AM	Peter Bolwell	Peter Aviss
Sussex West AM	Colin Holliday	Neil Macdonald
Swarthmoor (SW Cumbria) AM	Sue Tompkins	Cindy Metcalfe
Teesdale & Cleveland AM	Mary Wilkinson	Gaynor Hemming
Thaxted AM	Susan Moloney	Margaret Somerville
Wensleydale & Swaledale AM	Edna Rossiter	Ian Hunter Smart
West Kent AM	Jill Clarke	
West Scotland AM	Barbara Robinson	Edward Tyler
West Somerset AM	Fran Hicks	Kathy Gollin
West Weald AM		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
West Wiltshire & East Somerset AM	Jane Stephenson	Ruth Cook
Wirral & Chester AM	Alan Vernon	Sheila Houldin
Worcestershire & Shropshire AM	Andrew Jameson	David Bowgett
York AM	James McCarthy	Sarah Allen
General Meeting for Scotland	Ann Kerr	Mike Shilson
Meeting of Friends in Wales	Gethin Evans	
Young Friends General Meeting	Eleanor Fuller	Laurence Hall
Quaker Life Central Committee	Martin Pennock	Roy Stephenson
Quaker Committee for Christian and	Stephanie Grant	Nicola Hoskin-Stone
Interfaith Relations		

	Representative	Alternate
Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central	Deirdre Haslam	Jeff Beatty
Committee		
Quaker World Relations Committee	Barbara Windle	Ann Floyd

Other visitors:

Sam Cooper - Young Friends General Meeting (co-clerk) Dora Czibik – BYM staff, C&S Administrator Anne van Staveren – BYM staff, Media Relations Officer

MfS/18/07/03 Agenda

The clerk has introduced the draft agenda, and we have agreed to this.

MfS/18/07/04 Induction

For this first meeting of the 2018-21 triennium, we have welcomed both representatives and alternates to Meetings for Sufferings. We have spent the morning learning about Meeting for Sufferings, its relationship with other parts of our structures, and our roles. This has included:

- A brief description of the role of Meeting for Sufferings and how we work today;
- Introductions to our Arrangements Group and Support Group, and resources available to us
- A brief overview of the centrally-managed work and a description of how BYM Trustees and central committees and departments work together with Meeting for Sufferings for Britain Yearly Meeting;
- An explanation of how Meeting for Sufferings and area meetings communicate with one another, including the appropriate sending of minutes.

We thank members of the Arrangements Group, Support Group, Trustees and Management Meeting for contributing to our understanding of the distinct roles and work that make up Meeting for Sufferings.

MfS/18/07/05 Quaker Life Central Committee Strategy for 2018-22

We receive minute 2018.024 of Central England AM Meeting held on 17 March 2018. The Area Meeting recorded its support for QLCC's strategy. We are glad that Central England AM has considered the matter and we forward this minute to QLCC for their information.

MfS/18/07/06 Israel-Palestine

We receive minute 41/2018 of Devon AM Meeting held on 12 May 2018 regarding Israel-Palestine. In 2012 a group of senior UK lawyers visited Israel/Palestine with the support of the Foreign Office to investigate how Palestinian children were treated by the Israeli military when they were detained and kept in custody, which led to a series of recommendations. Devon AM has asked Friends to support calls for a follow-up visit, to review how far the recommendations have been implemented.

We have considered this concern and ask the clerk of Meeting for Sufferings to write to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

We forward this minute to Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) for information.

MfS/18/07/07 Circles of Support & Accountability

We receive minute 2018.051 of Central England AM Meeting held on 19 May 2018 regarding the removal of funding for Circles of Support & Accountability (COSA), which is an innovative,

volunteer-based means of supporting registered sex offenders. 'Circles' was a Britain Yearly Meeting project until becoming an independent organisation in 2008.

Responding to Central England AM's minute, and having consulted the clerk of Meeting for Sufferings, the Recording Clerk has written to the Minister of State for the Ministry of Justice making the case for continued funding of this work.

We now ask QPSWCC to keep us updated of any further developments.

MfS/18/07/08 Quakers in First World War

We receive minute 27.18 of Mid-Wales AM Meeting held on 19 May 2018 regarding the sacrifice made by many Quakers during the First World War. Gethin Evans, who has spoken to us today, has gathered detailed information about Quakers (members and attenders or those associated with the Society of Friends) who died as a result of their service during the war.

The list includes members of the military, as well as members of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) and Friends War Victims Relief Committee (FWVRC) and conscientious objectors. To date he has information about 264 Friends who died as a result of their experiences in the war, and this number may increase. In due course, the record could be lodged in the Friends House Library.

Mid-Wales AM hopes that the Yearly Meeting will recognise the deaths of all these Friends, possibly through the creation of a Book of Remembrance. This would re-affirm our commitment to the truth and to liberty of conscience, as was recognised by London Yearly Meeting a hundred years ago.

We have also been reminded of the memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, but we are concerned that formal recognition raises questions and uncertainties about the wide variety of suffering by all those involved in war.

We encourage Friends who would like to support and help with the research to be in touch with Gethin directly. We also hope that AMs will consider this further.

MfS/18/07/09 Home Groups

Over lunchtime, we have spent time in small groups, organised so that Friends from the same and neighbouring meetings could meet each other and talk together. We considered our preparation ('how can you be as prepared as possible, including making sure you take soundings locally as appropriate?') and how we take Meeting for Sufferings home ('how can you make the business interesting and relevant to Quakers locally?').

We have been glad for this opportunity to build our worshipping community.

MfS/18/07/10 Nominations and Appointments

a) Meeting for Sufferings Support Group

Our Search Group has brought forward the following names for service: Chris Bullard (Kendal & Sedbergh AM) Deirdre Haslam (Mid-Essex AM) Ruth McTighe (Central Yorkshire AM) Sam NcNair (Pickering & Hull AM) Julia Lim (South Wales AM / CCR De Cymru) Simon Risley (London West AM) Jenny Routledge (Norfolk and Waveney AM) Liz Eddington (Lancashire Central and North AM)

b) Other appointments

Central Nominations Committee brings forwards the following names for service or release:

Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group

Appoint to serve with immediate effect to September 2021: Mark Lilley Lincolnshire AM

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee

Appoint to serve for a second term from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021:Caroline KibblewhiteDorset & South Wiltshire AM

Appoint to serve for a second term from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019: Susan Smith Oxford & Swindon AM

Note that on 21 May 2018 the clerks of Meeting for Sufferings made a between meetings decisionto appoint the Friends below to serve with immediate effect to 31 December 2018:Adam DrurySouth East London AMElize SakamotoNorth West London AM

Quaker Life Central Committee

Appoint to serve for a second term from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021:Lizzie RosewoodYork AMIain LawNorthamptonshire AMJeffrey DeanManchester & Warrington AM

Request for release on 31 August 2018: Simon Colbeck

Luton & Leighton AM

Church Government Advisory Group

Appoint to serve for a second term from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021: Mark Tod Mid-Thames AM

Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations

Appoint to serve for a second term with immediate effect to 30 April 2021: Gethin Evans Mid-Wales AM

Appoint to serve with immediate effect to 30 April 2019: Claire Bowman Central England AM

Quaker United Nations Committee - Geneva

Appoint to serve from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021: Robert Gibson Leeds AM

Appoint to serve with immediate effect to 31 December 2020: Colin Hall Luton & Leighton AM

Request for release with immediate effect: Geoff Tansey Brighouse West Yorkshire AM

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

Appoint to serve with immediate effect until the end of Yearly Meeting 2019: Cliodhna Mulhern Lancashire Central & North AM

Friends Trusts Limited

Appoint to serve with immediate effect to 31 May 2020: Paul Wyatt Worcestershire & Shropshire AM

These names being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly and release those who have requested release, thanking them for their service.

MfS/18/07/11 Court & Prison Register

Earlier this year we recorded that Ian Bray of Brighouse West Yorkshire AM, with other members of a group, carried out four nonviolent direct actions in 8 days between 19th and 26th March as part of the Stop Killing Londoners, Cut Air Pollution campaign (MfS/18/04/04). We have now received an update from Brighouse West Yorkshire AM letting us know that Ian Bray was charged with criminal damage and received a conditional discharge and a small fine.

We agree to add this information to our court and prison register, and we hold lan Bray in the Light.

MfS/18/07/12 Yearly Meeting 2018 minutes and reflections

We have spent time reflecting on Yearly Meeting 2018. Many of us attended Yearly Meeting and we have heard of the uplifting effect of the voices of the young throughout the meeting, rising up. We were pleased to see the minutes from the young showing that they want an active role in our Society.

In pursuing our future work, it has been suggested that we revisit the questions of minute 31: 'Who are we? Who do we aspire to be?' and increase our trust of each other as we go forward.

MfS/18/07/13 Book of Discipline Revision

We receive Minutes 16, 21, 24,25,27,28 and 31 from Yearly Meeting 2018 and further to minute 31, we agree to appoint and oversee a Book of Discipline Revision Committee.

We have approved terms of reference for the Book of Discipline Revision Committee (paper MfS 2018 07 11) as amended today. We ask Central Nominations Committee to bring us names so that the Revision Committee can start work in 2019.

We receive minute 2018.16 of Young Friends General Meeting held on 25-28 May 2018 regarding the decision to revise Quaker *faith and practice* at Yearly Meeting this year. We note the concern expressed by YFGM that 'the potential length of service and time commitment of roles on the Revision Committee may make them inaccessible to some'. We ask Central Nominations Committee to ensure that the names brought to us include younger Friends. We also ask the Book of Discipline Revision Committee to ensure the revision process is fully accessible to younger Quakers.

We ask the Revision Committee to involve relevant groups as necessary, throughout the process. We recognise that particular support may be needed. Prayerful and practical support will be required and we have heard that appropriate resource will be made available.

We note, under 2.3 of the Terms of Reference, the committee is required to report to Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting annually, and this will allow opportunity for regular scrutiny of its composition and work.

We send this minute to Central Nominations Committee.

MfS/18/07/14 Religious understandings

We receive minute RPG 18/06/10 from the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group regarding concerns about how we share our differing religious understandings. We agree that dialogue needs to be a normal and continuing part of our life as Quakers to have a deeper spiritual experience. Quaker Life Central Committee has been sent the same minute; we hope QLCC will consider it and be prepared to explore this with us when we return to the matter later in 2018 / in early 2019.

We send our minute to Quaker Life Central Committee.

MfS/18/07/15 Quaker Stewardship Committee Review Group

We receive Minute 14 of Yearly Meeting 2018 which asks Meeting for Sufferings to review Quaker Stewardship Committee. We have received draft terms of reference for Quaker Stewardship Committee Review Group (paper MfS 2018 07 12). We approve these terms of reference, and ask Central Nominations Committee to bring names when it is ready.

We send this minute to Central Nominations Committee and Quaker Stewardship Committee.

MfS/18/07/16 BYM Trustees

Ingrid Greenhow, clerk of BYM Trustees, has spoken to the minutes of the meeting held at Swarthmoor Hall on 1 to 3 June 2018.

This is an exciting time to be a Trustee and member of Meeting for Sufferings, where a vision is being developed of a simpler church and a simpler charity.

Two central committees have indicated that they are continuing to review their priorities, and this may lead to difficult decisions.

We have heard that the Hospitality Company, whilst being an exemplar of Quaker business, treating everyone with dignity, has achieved a record result in 2017, contributing £965,000 to the Quaker work of BYM.

We join with Trustees in thanking BYM staff for their hard work and good humour in supporting the 2018 Yearly Meeting in May.

We thank Trustees for their work.

MfS/18/07/17 Sustainability: reporting on actions

Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Group (BYMSG) is a working group of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS); it works to oversee and encourage progress in relation to the commitment, made at Yearly Meeting in 2011, to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. For some time, BYMSG has been considering how best to encourage and support local and area meetings in monitoring carbon use. (Our minutes 2017/02/06 and 2017/04/07 refer.)

BYMSG, and Quaker Stewardship Committee (QSC), have devised a proposal that Area Meetings endeavour to report on sustainability actions through their Annual Reports. QSC has provided draft guidelines for area meetings.

We agree this is a helpful way forward, and encourage Area Meetings to follow the guidelines. We ask QSC to report to Meeting for Sufferings on the extent of sustainability reporting within Area Meeting Trustee Annual reports.

We send this minute to QSC and BYMSG.

MfS/18/07/18 Quaker Recognised Bodies

Further to minute MfS/15/12/1, we receive paper MfS 2018/07/15 recommending six groups for registration as a Quaker Recognised Bodies.

We agree to register the following groups for five years, with registration to be reviewed by July 2023.

External

Friends Fellowship of Healing Claridge House Quaker Congo Partnership UK

Free standing

Post Yugoslav Peace Link Quaker Africa Interest Group Quaker Concern Over Population

MfS/18/04/19 Closing minute

This has been the first meeting of the new triennium and we have closed our time together in worship.

Anne Ullathorne Clerk

(Quaker faith & practice Chapter 7.02)
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Meeting

B To is C To r D To r To r			
	To set the priorities for the centrally managed work		
· · ·	To issue public statements in the name of BYM		
· ·	To receive regular interim reports from BYM trustees	16	
-	To receive the BYM trustees' annual report & accounts for information		
	To make a report on its own activities to YM		
	To determine the dates of YM		
G To 0	To deliberate on how best to support the spiritual life of the yearly meeting and to further the	12	YM reflections
dev		13	BoD Revision
			committee
		14	Religious
			understandings
		15	Sustainability
			reporting
H To k	To keep under review and to test as appropriate the existing and new concerns referred to it by AMs	2	QLCC strategy
and	and others	9	Israel-Palestine
		7	Circles
		8	Qs in WW1
Tof	To foster communication throughout the yearly meeting	2	QLCC strategy
		12	YM reflections
		15	Sustainability
			reporting
		18	QRBs
To r	To receive minutes from area meetings	2	QLCC strategy
		9	Israel-Palestine
		7	Circles
		8	Qs in WW1
K To r	To make appropriate entries in the prison and court register	11	
Toa	appoint representatives to attend other Yearly Meetings		

Σ	To receive information about changes in the composition or status of general meetings and		
	gatherings		
Ζ	To make changes in the composition of area meetings		
0	To give assistance to area meetings in the amicable settlement of disputes		
Ь	To hear appeals against area meeting decisions		
ø	To give guidance on policy matters referred to it by the BYM trustees from time to time		
R	To authorise action and minute as required under other sections of Quaker faith & practice	10	Noms & appts
		13	BoD Revision
		15	QSC Review
		17	Sustainability
			reporting
		18	QRBs
S	To set up an arrangements group and support and working groups to assist its own work as it sees fit	10a	MfS Support
			Group
•	Receiving reports from central committees adds to our understanding and decisions regarding both A priorities and G supporting the spiritual life of the YM	priorities a	and G